

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference B 14071.3 FG	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/IB 03/03637	International filing date (day/month/year) 05/08/2003	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 06/08/2002
Applicant CENTRE NATIONAL DE LA RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 5 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

- b. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

☐ contained in the international application in written form.

☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

☐ the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

☐ the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. ☐ **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box I).

3. ☐ **Unity of invention is lacking** (see Box II).

4. With regard to the **title**,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the **abstract**,

☐ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☒ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No.

☐ as suggested by the applicant.

☐ because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

☐ because this figure better characterizes the invention.

☒ None of the figures.

Box III TEXT OF THE ABSTRACT (Continuation of item 5 of the first sheet)

A process for the treatment of at least one of the electrodes (cathode and/or anode) of a fuel cell, before the said cell is operated, and before or after the said electrode is placed in the said cell, comprises the step consisting in forming a biofilm on at least part of the surface of the said electrode, by immersing the said electrode in a medium capable of causing the growth of biofilms. The said biofilm being intended to catalyse the reaction at the electrode, and the step consisting simultaneously in subjecting the said electrode to a polarization potential.

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International Application No

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC 7 H01M8/16 H01M4/88 H01M4/90

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
 IPC 7 H01M

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ, COMPENDEX, INSPEC, WPI Data, CHEM ABS Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	EP 0 827 229 A (KOREA INST SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY) 4 March 1998 (1998-03-04) page 3, line 40 - line 42 page 4, line 24 - line 28 page 4, line 43 - line 56 example 1	1-18
A	WO 01/04061 A (KOREA INST SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ;KIM BYUNGHONG (KR); PARK HYUNGSOO () 18 January 2001 (2001-01-18) page 4, line 20 - line 26 page 6, line 11 - line 21 claim 4	1-18

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *G* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

7 December 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

15/12/2004

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Métais, S

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 3 278 335 A (HITZMAN DONALD O) 11 October 1966 (1966-10-11) column 1, line 28 - line 35 column 1, line 49 - line 63 claim 1 -----	1-18
A	US 6 294 281 B1 (HELLER ADAM) 25 September 2001 (2001-09-25) column 13, line 5 - line 20 claim 1 -----	1-18

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

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Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 0827229	A	04-03-1998	KR 224381 B1	15-10-1999
			EP 0827229 A2	04-03-1998
			JP 3022431 B2	21-03-2000
			JP 10233226 A	02-09-1998
			US 5976719 A	02-11-1999
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WO 0104061	A	18-01-2001	KR 2001009031 A	05-02-2001
			AU 3333500 A	30-01-2001
			CA 2378558 A1	18-01-2001
			CN 1364146 T	14-08-2002
			EP 1232123 A1	21-08-2002
			JP 2004517437 T	10-06-2004
			WO 0104061 A1	18-01-2001
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US 3278335	A	11-10-1966	NONE	
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US 6294281	B1	25-09-2001	US 2003152823 A1	14-08-2003
			US 2002025469 A1	28-02-2002
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